

STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT

Basham Press Release

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SEN. BASHAM CALLS UPON EPA TO DENY EDS PETITION

Agency Will Extend Public Comment Period Due to “Significant” New Information

LANSING- State Senator Ray Basham was pleased to learn of the Environmental Protection Agency’s decision to consider new information regarding Environmental Disposal Systems’ petition for a land ban exemption and called upon Region 5 EPA Administrator Tom Skinner to deny the EDS permit. The Taylor Democrat’s comments come on the heels of the EPA’s recent announcement that it will extend the public comment phase on the EDS petition due to the Department of Environmental Quality’s decision to issue an extraction permit to Sunoco.

“Back in 2001 the EPA acknowledged the conflict with the EDS and Sunoco operations. The agency even warned EDS in a letter that the Sunoco operations would force EDS to immediately cease operation and plug its wells,” Sen. Basham said. “The recent approval of the Sunoco extraction wells now makes it impossible for EDS to meet the federal requirements for a hazardous waste land ban exemption.”

EPA Administrator Skinner has stated publicly that the EDS and Sunoco operations could not coexist because the hazardous wastes injected by EDS into the Mt. Simon formation would eventually migrate to the Sunoco property and ultimately be extracted by the Sunoco wells. The issue had been moot during the initial public comment phase because Sunoco had not been issued a permit. However, two weeks after the EPA’s public comment period closed, the DEQ announced that Sunoco would be granted an extraction permit.

“I applaud Administrator Skinner for extending the public comment phase and acknowledging that the DEQ’s action was a significant development,” Sen. Basham said. “Environmental experts are in agreement that the two projects can not safely coexist. For the sake of public safety, the EPA needs to take the next logical step and deny the EDS petition.”

The EPA will now accept written comments on the EDS issue until October 6, 2003.

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